

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121 the following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method for manufacturing a magnetic recording medium comprising the steps of:

laminating a non-magnetic under-layer on a non-magnetic substrate;

laminating a magnetic layer on said under-layer by the steps of:

exposing said non-magnetic underlayer to an atmosphere of oxygen-containing gas to form and ~~forming~~ an oxide layer on a surface of said non-magnetic underlayer;[[,]]

depositing, on an oxide layer, a magnetic layer component comprising ferromagnetic grains and grain boundaries surrounding said grains;[[,]]

exposing said magnetic layer to said atmosphere of oxygen-containing gas
and forming an oxide layer on a surface of said magnetic layer; and

repeating the depositing and the exposing said magnetic layer and ~~depositing~~ steps at predetermined times, and

~~exposing to said atmosphere of oxygen-containing gas and forming an oxide layer on a surface;~~

laminating a protective film on said magnetic layer; and

laminating a liquid lubricant layer on said protective film.

2. (Original) The method for manufacturing a magnetic recording medium according to claim 2, wherein each step is performed without heating said substrate in advance.

3. (Currently amended) A method for manufacturing a magnetic recording medium comprising the steps of:

laminating a non-magnetic under-layer on a non-magnetic substrate;

exposing the non-magnetic under-layer to an atmosphere of oxygen-containing gas;

forming an oxide layer on said non-magnetic under-layer;

laminating a magnetic layer on said under-layer comprising the steps of:

~~after laminating a preceding layer, exposing the preceding layer surface to an atmosphere of oxygen-containing gas;~~

~~forming an oxide layer on the preceding layer surface;~~

depositing, on a surface of the preceding oxide layer, a magnetic layer component comprising ferromagnetic grains and grain boundaries surrounding said grains;

~~repeating the exposing, forming, and depositing steps a predetermined number of times;~~

after depositing ~~laminating a preceding~~ a preceding magnetic layer, exposing the preceding magnetic layer surface to the atmosphere of oxygen-containing gas; ~~and~~

forming an oxide layer on the preceding magnetic layer surface; and

repeating the depositing, exposing, and forming steps a predetermined number of times;

laminating a protective film on said magnetic layer; and

laminating a liquid lubricant layer on said protective film.